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To: NE NPR-A Amendment Planning Team

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To reduce the size of the Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area from 857,859 acres to 213,000 acres would be a serious mistake.

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Wildlife

Tens of thousands of migrating birds depend on this undisturbed habitat for molting and breeding. Oil fields already established have shown that the resulting garbage attracts predators that are not common to the undisturbed preserve. These predators significantly reduce the chances for survival of the baby birds in their nests and the molting geese which can't fly during the molt.

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Caribou

The size of the caribou herds would likely decline also. During calving in June and July the herds wind around the many lakes along the coast while foraging for food. Roads through the area would limit where the herds travel and likely reduce the size of the herds due to a reduction in areas available for grazing. Alaska natives from the North Slope are subsistence users of the caribou. The survival of the caribou is vital to their existence.

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The original designation of the Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area in 1998 is due to these lakes and wetlands comprising an essential wildlife habitat. The negative impact would be far reaching. The birds that migrate there populate all of North and South America. Alaska natives depend on the caribou for survival as they have for many generations. The Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area must remain at 857,859 acres, as small as that is, for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Ann Dyes